

IN THE CLAIMS

*The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:*

1. *(Canceled)*

2. *(Currently Amended)* An image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of image forming units that form images and overlap the formed images onto a transfer material;

a plurality of scanners that form images in said plurality of image forming units respectively;

a first controller that has a first mode in which said plurality of scanners are driven in synchronism with each other to carry out image formation by said plurality of image forming units, and a second mode in which at least one of said plurality of scanners is driven independently to carry out image formation by at least one of said image forming units, said first controller causing said plurality of scanners for the image formation in the first mode to be driven together at the same time while the image formation is being carried out in the second mode; and

a second controller that switches said plurality of scanners to be driven in the first mode from the second mode, to carry out the image formation in the first mode, after the image formation in the second mode is completed.

3. *(Previously Presented)* An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the image formation in the second mode is monochromatic image formation, and the image formation in the first mode is image formation in a plurality of colors.

4. *(Previously Presented)* An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said first controller starts a preparation for applying high voltage to at least one of said image forming units that is not being used for the image formation in the second mode.

5. *(Currently Amended)* An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said first controller starts to drive ~~at least one~~ all of said scanners ~~that is~~ are not being used for the image formation in the second mode.

6. (*Previously Presented*) An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said second controller synchronizes said plurality of scanners after the image formation in the second mode is completed.

7. (*Currently Amended*) An image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said first controller starts to drive at least one all of said scanners ~~that is~~ are not being used for the image formation in the second mode, and said second controller synchronizes said plurality of scanners after the image formation in the second mode is completed.

8. (*Canceled*)

9. (*Currently Amended*) A method of controlling an image forming apparatus having a plurality of image forming units that form images and overlap the formed images onto a transfer material, and a plurality of scanners that form images in said plurality of image forming units respectively, wherein said plurality of scanners are driven in synchronism with each other to carry out image formation by said plurality of image forming units in a first mode and at least one of said plurality of scanners is driven independently to carry out image formation by at least one of said image forming units in a second mode, comprising:

a first control step of causing said plurality of scanners for image formation in the first mode to be driven together at the same time while image formation is being carried out in the second mode; and

a second control step of switching the plurality of scanners to be driven in the first mode from the second mode, to carry out the image formation in the first mode, after the image formation in the second mode is completed.

10. (*Previously Presented*) A method of controlling an image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the image formation in the second mode is monochromatic image formation, and the image formation in the first mode is image formation in a plurality of colors.

11. (*Previously Presented*) A method of controlling the image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said first control step comprises starting a preparation for applying high voltage to at least one of the image forming units that is not being used for the image formation in the second mode.

12. (*Currently Amended*) A method of controlling as image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said first control step comprises starting to drive ~~at least one~~ all of the scanners that ~~is~~ are not being used for the image formation in the second mode.

13. (*Previously Presented*) A method of controlling an image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said second control step comprises synchronizing the plurality of scanners after the image formation in the second mode is completed.

14. (*Currently Amended*) A method of controlling an image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein said first control step comprises starting to drive ~~at least one~~ all of the scanners that ~~is~~ are not being used for the image formation in the second mode, and said second control step comprises synchronizing the plurality of scanners after the image formation in the second mode is completed.